THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 139 cases of SC/ST bogus caste certificate in the Department of Posts and one case in the Department of Information Technology.

(b) In 52 cases in the Department of Posts and one case in the Department of Information Technology, the Departmental proceedings have been started.

(c) 62 cases concerning employees of the Department of Posts and none of Department of Information Technology are pending before various Courts.

(d) Action will be taken to expedite the Departmental proceedings against the concerned employees. Cases pending with various courts would be pursued vigorously. Depending on the decisions in the Departmental proceedings and court cases, the action will be taken to fill up the vacancies belonging to SC and ST. In respect of Department of Telecommunications the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Permission for holding elective office

2486. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees of MTNL, Department of Posts and the Department of Telecommunications, New Delhi granted permission to hold an elective office in Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar) as per the provision of Rule 15 of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 together with copies of their applications and permission granted thereon during the year 2007;

(b) whether there is any proposal to direct all such employees who are holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar without the previous sanction of Government, to discontinue holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar forthwith; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Licences for VPTs

2487. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided licences to private basic service operators to provide a fixed number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs);

(b) if so, the details of VPTs provided by these basic operators, State-wise;

(c) whether these private operators have failed to provide VPTs in their respective areas within stipulated time-frame; and

(d) if so, the action taken against these operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) All the Basic Private Service Operators (BPSOs), who were issued licence in 1997, have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) in November 2003. According to the guidelines of UASL, there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas under the migrated UASL licence.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Common telephone directory

2488. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and TRAI would explore the possibility of having one telephone enquiry number for all landline phones in a city or State;

(b) whether the concept of a common telephone directory has been explored;

(c) whether Government would ensure that public have easy access to enquire all phone numbers of all telecom companies in a city or State;

(d) the status of efforts to evolve a common telecom directory in public interest; and

(e) the reasons for regulating this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The proposal is under consideration in the Department of Telecommunications.

Fund for benefit of telephone subscribers

2489. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has constituted a fund for the benefit of Telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the sources of finance for the fund;

(d) whether Government have made any initial contribution to the fund; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has established the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund.